schemes and working of the Panchayati Raj in the States;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering granting more powers to Panchayati Raj institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Review of implementation of its schemes is an ongoing process in the Ministry of Rural Development. Article 243-G of the Constitution vests the State Legislature with powers to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-Government. States are at various levels of devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions. the Central Government continues to persuade States through correspondence with the State Governments and discussions at meeting with Ministers of Panchayati Raj and State Secretaries concerned to devolve more powers on Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Ministry of Rural Development on its part has also ensured that Centrally Sponsored Rural Development Schemes such as 'SWAJALDHARA', Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and 'HARYALI' (Watershed Development) are implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

**Central assistance of Rajasthan for drinking water scheme**

893. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance provided to the State Government of Rajasthan during the last three years for implementation of drinking water scheme in rural areas of the State;

(b) whether State Government of Rajasthan has sought additional Central Assistance for providing drinking water in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Details of funds

released to the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years are given in the Statement annexed. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal for allocation of additional Central assistance for providing drinking water in rural areas. Rs. 1200 lakh have been released to the Government of Rajasthan during 2002-2003 for meeting the requirement of drinking water in the rural areas in the wake of drought conditions out of the 5% of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds earmarked for meeting contingencies arising out of natural calamities and other emergent situations. Under the normal Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, an amount of Rs. 17625.30 lakh has been released against the allocation of Rs. 20731.00 lakh after deducting excess opening balance. Under the Desert Development Programme (DDP) component of ARWSP, an amount of Rs. 4770.66 lakh has also been released against the allocation of Rs. 6019.00 lakh after deducting excess opening balance. These do not include the funds released to State by Ministry of Agriculture for meeting drought condition.

***Statement***

*Central assistance to Government of Rajasthan for drinking water scheme*

(*Rupees in lakhs*)

| Year | ARWSP | DDP | PMGY | Sector Reforms | Drought component |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000-01 | 16361.00 | 4151.00 | 2158.00 | 171.81 | |
| 2001-02 | 14919.08 | 5794.65 | 1620.00 | 1122.00 | |
| 2002-03 | 17625.30 | 4770.66 | 1061.00 | — | 1200.00 |
| TOTAL: | 48,905.38 | 14,716.31 | 4,939.00 | 2,839.81 | 1,200.00 |

ARWSP-Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

DDP-Desert Development Programme

PMGY-Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana